

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claims 1 through 3, 5, 7 and 8 as follows:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for spraying at least one liquid food ~~[[an]] additive,~~ diluted with a diluent ~~therefor, consisting of~~ comprising:

- a diluent container (1);
- a further container (2) for ~~[[a]]~~ said liquid food additive;
- at least one mixer (6);
- conduits communicating said diluent container and said further additive container (1 and 2) with said mixer (6) for allowing the dilution of the liquid food additive by the diluent from said diluent container (1);
- a spray zone;
- spraying means (7) connected to receive the output from said at least one mixer with a constant flow rate and to spray it at said ~~[[a]]~~ spray zone; and
- means for transporting a solid foodstuff product to said spray zone to receive the liquid food additive;
- wherein in said conduits there is a respective regulation valve (5) per liquid food additive associated with the ~~first mentioned~~ diluent and further containers (1, 2); ~~there are~~ dilution control means for controlling said regulation valves (5) to control the rates of flow of the diluent and liquid food additive to said mixer, said dilution control means being responsive to the flow of solid foodstuff product being conveyed by said transporting means to control the rate of flow of the additive in proportion to the flow of solid foodstuff product, and being effective to vary the flow of diluent in response to the desired total flow rate of liquid food additive to said spraying means to maintain a constant total flow rate; and
- ~~characterised in that the~~ said spray nozzle is aimed towards a conveyor for a solid foodstuff product to be sprayed, and in that the control means

are in the form of a microprocessor responsive to the weight of solid foodstuff ~~product~~ present on the conveyor.

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterised in that one or more conduits connecting ~~[[a]]~~ said diluent container or said further ~~an additive~~ container to ~~[[a]]~~ said mixer are associated with respective flow meters.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterised in that there are several said further ~~additive~~ containers (2) connected to said mixer, each said further ~~additive~~ container being associated with a respective liquid food additive flow meter (4) and liquid food additive flow regulation valve (5).

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the or each mixer is a static mixer.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterised in that there are several said further containers communicating with a common said mixer (6);

- and in that the control means modulates the proportional flow rate of each of the different liquid food additives in response to the amount of solid product.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, characterised in that a flow of gas is provided to the spraying means to assist the spraying at a constant rate.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2, characterised by a diluent pump (3) operative to pump diluent from said diluent container (1) towards said at least one mixer (6), and by at least one liquid food additive pump (3) operative to pump a respective said liquid food additive from a said further

B2
control

container towards said at least one mixer; and further characterised in that, in use of the device, liquid food additive is pumped by the diluent pump (3) from the diluent container (1) as far as [[a]] said diluent flow meter (4) for diluent and then introduced into the associated diluent regulation valve (5) before being introduced into the mixer (6);

- in that liquid food additive is pumped by the or each liquid food additive pump (3) from the liquid food additive container (2) as far as a said flow meter (4) for the liquid food additive and then introduced into liquid food [[an]] additive regulation valve (5) before being introduced into the mixer (6);

- and in that an injector (7) is provided and is operative to spray the mixture of diluent(s) and liquid food additive is sprayed by an injector (7) with a constant flow rate assisted by a flow of air (8).

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterised by several spraying means ~~systems~~ (7) each able to be adapted to the throughput of solid foodstuff ~~product~~.